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TUTS458
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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6811
INFO RUHUL/AMEMBASSY BONN 155
RUESUZ/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 1251
RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 4268
RUESDO/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 1693
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L

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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2006

PO8

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EO 12065: NA
TAGS: PGOV PA
SUBJECT: PARAGUAYAN SUPREME COURT REVOKES MENGELE'S PARAGUAYAN
CITIZENSHIP

1. (UNC) THE PARAGUAYAN SUPREME COURT HANDED DOWN A FORMAL JUDGMENT AUGUST 8 WHICH CANCELS THE NATURALIZATION CERTIFICATE WHICH CONFERRED PARAGUAYAN NATIONALITY ON MENGELE ON NOVEMBER 27, 1959. THE JUDGMENT ALSO ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO INFORM THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR OF THE COURT'S JUDGMENT. THE BASIS FOR THE ACTION WAS ARTICLE 29 OF THE CONSTITUTION WHICH PERMITS NATURALIZED PARAGUAYAN CITIZENS TO BE DIVESTED OF THEIR NATIONALITY IF THEY ARE UNJUSTIFIABLY ABSENT FROM PARAGUAY FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS.

2. (LOU) RADICAL LIBERAL DEPUTY LIGIA PRIETO DE CENTURION HAS INTRODUCED AN INTERROGATORY INTO THE PARLIAMENT QUESTIONING WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALLOWED MENGELE TO BECOME A PARAGUAYAN CITIZEN. IN RESPONSE THE OFFICIAL COLORADO PARTY DAILY "PATRIA" HAD ATTACKED THE INTERROGATORY SAYING THAT MRS.

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PRIETO WAS ONLY SEEKING TO PUBLICIZE HERSELF. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH "ABC" PUBLISHED AUGUST 9 THE FIERY DEPUTY POST A FURTHER SERIES OF QUESTIONS WHICH SHE SAID THE AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER SOME DAY. THESE WERE QUESTIONS SUCH AS WHY MENGELE HAD BEEN GIVEN PARAGUAYAN CITIZENSHIP; WHY DIDN'T THE COURT KNOW THAT MENGELE WAS WANTED AS A WAR CRIMINAL; WHAT PROFESSION MENGELE PRACTICED IN PARAGUAY WHICH IS REQUIRED UNDER THE NATURALIZATION PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION; AND HOW COULD MENGELE, A WANTED WAR CRIMINAL, HAVE RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE OF GOOD CONDUCT?

3. (LUG) COMMENT; TH SUPREME COURT'S ACTION BLURS SOMEWHAT PARAGUAY'S CONNECTION WITH MENGELE. ALTHOUGH THE GOP CLAIMS THAT MENGELE HAS NOT BEEN LIVING IN PARAGUAY FOR MANY YEARS, MANY INFORMED OBSERVERS STILL BELIEVE THAT MENGELE LIVES IN PARAGUAY AT LEAST FROM TIME TO TIME. A WELL INFORMED RURAL PRIEST TELLS US HE SAW HIM IN PARAGUAY ABOUT A MONTH AGO NEAR THE BRAZILIAN BORDER.
DION

END OF MESSAGE

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